

REMARKS

Claims 26-32 are all the claims pending in the current Application, of which claims 31 and 32 have been withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention. Accordingly, claims 26-30 have been examined in the current Office Action. The Examiner has rejected claims 28 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and has rejected claims 26-30 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

I. Preliminary Matters

The Examiner has not acknowledged the drawings filed on July 25, 2003. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate, in the next Office Action, whether the drawings are acceptable.

Also, Applicant has made a minor amendment to claim 26 for clarification. Such amendment is not made in view of the prior art and does not narrow the scope of the claim.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 28 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claims 28 and 30 in a manner believed to overcome the rejection. Such amendments are not made in view of the prior art.

III. Rejections under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting

The Examiner has rejected claims 26-30 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over at least claims 1-9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,622,953. The '953 patent is based on the parent Application to the present Application.

Applicants file herewith a Terminal Disclaimer, thereby overcoming the rejection of claims 26-30.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

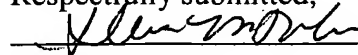
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